Project Ideas to Kickstart Volunteering in Your School or Community

Do a Drive to Collect:

- --Toys
- --Diapers
- --Canned Food
- --School Supplies
- --Backpacks
- --Warm clothes
- --Toiletries
- --Cell Phones/Technology
- --Towels & Linens
- --Blankets
- --Pet food & pet toys
- --Supplies for a Thanksgiving Basket
- --Prom Dresses or Boys Formal Wear
- --Coupons
- --Baby Clothes
- --Stuffed Animals

On Site Projects:

- --Host a school groups clean-up
- --Compile a welcome kit or buddy system for new students
- --Raffle off prize-filled baskets and donate the proceeds to a cause
- --Write thank-you notes to people who work at a nonprofit organization
- --Compile First Aid Kits for shelters
- --Compile snack packs for an organization such as So Others Might Eat or Shepherd's Table
- --Create a haunted house at your school, and donate the proceeds of the entrance fee to a cause
- --Charge a small fee to charge or decorate pumpkins, and donate the proceeds to a cause
- --Host a Dance-a-thon to raise money for a cause
- --Host a bake sale to raise money, and donate the proceeds
- --Host a fashion show where local designers donate clothes to be raffled off, and entrance fees are donated to a cause
- --Host a car wash, and donate the proceeds

--Host a Date Auction, where students are raffled off for a date with the highest bidder, and the money raised by the raffle is donated to a cause
--Compile hospital kits with games, stuffed animals, and coloring books for children undergoing hospitalization
--Host a movie night, and donate the proceeds from the entrance fee

<u>Awareness-Raising Projects:</u>

--Raise awareness about an issue that seems especially prevalent in your school, such as texting while driving or underage drinking. Create a pledge for students to sign
--Register those eligible in your school or community to vote
--Adopt an elementary school class, and visit them once a week
--Pick a cause to recognize on a specific day, or celebrate a national awareness day or month, such as Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October
--Write letters to the Maryland representative about an issue the school feels passionately about

<u>Miscellaneous Projects:</u>

--Volunteer as a photographer or video taper as a nonprofit's event
--Cook meals or baked goods for a shelter
--Visit a nearby senior center
--Host a senior citizens' prom
--Clean up a local park, school, or neighborhood

Looking for a nonprofit to connect with? Check out the Volunteer Center's online database! Go to www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteer and click on the blue box that says "Volunteer!" and it will take you to our online database. When you do a search, two lists will come up, opportunities and organizations, click on the tab that says organziations to see what nonprofits may be near by that you can conncect with!   If you need assistance or have any questions, give us a call at 240-777-2600 or email volunteer@montgomerycountymd.gov.